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Letter dated 13 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 November 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by a representative of the Greek Cypriot administration at the meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) held on 30 October 2000 under agenda item 84 (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), which contains false allegations and misrepresentations on the Cyprus issue. Since the Turkish Cypriot side is denied the right to speak in the said Committee, due to the unilateral and illegal representation of the Greek Cypriot side at the United Nations, ensuing from its usurpation in 1963 of the title of the "government of Cyprus", I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing.

The Greek Cypriot representative refers to the Greek Cypriot experience of "displacement and uprooting" resulting from "the invasion in 1974" without elaborating on the events prior to 1974, namely the destruction of the partnership republic by Greek Cypriots in 1963 and the suffering of the Turkish Cypriot people from 1963 to 1974. The Greek Cypriot representative conveniently forgets the fact that it was the bloody coup d'etat, staged on 15 July 1974 by Greece staged on 15 July 1974 by Greece and its Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus, with the aim of annexing the island to Greece, that left Turkey no alternative but to intervene in Cyprus in exercise of its rights and obligations set out by the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. This fact was confirmed by a statement made on 19 July 1974 at the United Nations Security Council by the Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, who openly accused Greece of invading the island. The current Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides also recalled this important fact of history in his speech at the Seton Hall University of New Jersey on 24 September 1999.

The question of displaced persons in Cyprus did not start in 1974, as alleged by the Greek Cypriot representative. During the period from 1963 to 1974, as a result of the Greek Cypriot onslaught, 103 Turkish Cypriot villages were attacked and destroyed, rendering one fourth of the Turkish Cypriot population homeless refugees. Again in 1974, as a result of the coup d'etat and its aftermath, 65,000 Turkish Cypriots fled to the North to seek refuge in safer areas. The burden of responsibility for the human suffering that the Greek Cypriot representative has alluded to, lies heavily with the Greek Cypriot side and Greece, which have jointly conspired to bring about *enosis* (annexation of the island to Greece) at the expense of the Turkish Cypriots.

The Greek Cypriot representative also seems to have forgotten that the question of displaced persons was settled by agreement between the two sides at the third round of the intercommunal talks held at Vienna from 31 July to 2 August 1975. Under the provisions of that agreement, the two sides implemented, under United Nations supervision, a voluntary regrouping of populations in their own respective territory, the Turkish Cypriots in the North and the Greek Cypriots in the South, thus paving the way for a bi-zonal settlement of the Cyprus issue.

It is clear from the statement of the Greek Cypriot representative at the Fourth Committee that the Greek Cypriot side is not interested in a bi-zonal settlement that would respect the sovereign equality of the two parties as well as their security needs. The Greek Cypriot side remains hostage to its long-term aspiration of making

Cyprus Greek by hanging onto its usurped title of the "government of Cyprus" and denying the vested rights and status of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Peace in Cyprus cannot be served by political posturing and dissemination of false propaganda. The only way to improve the chances of reconciliation is for the international community to strongly urge the Greek Cypriot side to fundamentally change its approach to the Cyprus issue by acknowledging that the Greek Cypriot administration does not, and is not entitled to, represent the Turkish Cypriot people or the whole island. You have issued a statement, on 12 September 2000, at the beginning of the fourth round of proximity talks in New York, to that effect (press release No. SG/SM/7546). When the Greek Cypriot side acknowledges this fact, it will be possible to pave the way towards building bridges of cooperation between the two states in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus